6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden M M1

	£
Medical	
Improvement to Civil Hospital	2,000
Health	
Dormitory for 50 domestic servants, Tawahi . . .	750
Prison	
Improvement to Prison Buildings	2,300

Mechanical Workshop

A small mechanical workshop is maintained where all motor transport of the Public Health and Public Works Departments are serviced and repaired. Animal-drawn vehicles such as refuse carts, night-soil tumbler carts, etc., are also made and repaired.

Furniture

Owing to the difficulty in obtaining furniture in Aden, the Government instituted a scheme in 1945 whereby expatriate officials could obtain furniture on hire.

This furniture is made partly by the Public Works Department and partly by local contractors, and during 1948 562 pieces of furniture (182 by the Public Works Department) were made and issued.

Building Plans

All deposited building plans submitted by the general public are first checked by the Public Works Department and then passed on to the respective townships for formal approval.

All buildings in course of erection are inspected periodically to ensure that they comply with the regulations in force. Ninety-nine permanent building permits were issued in 1948, compared with 78 in the previous year.

Crown Lands

The Director of Public Works is also Commissioner and Registrar of Lands, and all transfers of immoveable property made during the year were duly registered after the various titles had been carefully scrutinised.

Nineteen parcels of Crown land were also leased during the year to the general public, for various building purposes.

Stores

All work is carried out departmentally by direct labour, and consequently large stocks of building and other stores have to be kept. Deliveries of most goods from the United Kingdom during 1948 were a great improvement on the previous year, and stores to the value of £79,400 were issued to the various works during the year under review.

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1

Chapter 6: Production

SALT

258 There are four salt works, which are owned by private companies.
439 Export of salt to India has been discontinued as India is now producing almost all the salt it needs. Japan is still buying large quantities at competitive prices. The tonnage produced during the two years is as follows:

Year	*Tons*
1951 . .	304,302
1952 . .	376,079

FISHERIES

Fishing Areas and Methods

133 The Colony coast extends for approximately 16 sea miles in a straight line but is heavily indented with rocky bays and sandy beaches. Fish-
226 ing is almost totally coastal and shoals of small fish are caught in the shallow waters of the inner harbour. The only deep-sea fishing carried out is just inside the 100-fathom line on rocky heads in the otherwise sandy bottom at distances up to 16 miles from the coast. No inland fisheries exist because of the arid geography of the Colony.

226 Fishing methods are mostly ancient having been handed down
501 through generations of fishermen. Dugout canoes from 9 feet to 30 feet long and sewn or nailed planked surf boats (sambuks) up to 35 feet long are the principal fishing craft. The small canoes (houris) are fished by one man with handline for rock fish and trolling for migratory shoaling fish. The larger houris are used by a crew of three or four with cotton nets for shoals of a type of mackerel, and with handlines on the rocky coast. In addition, beach seines and rectangular bottom set nets are set by this type of craft. The surf boats are mostly used during the summer months with a crew of eleven using encircling gill nets, and during the months of March, April and May for deep-sea hand lining.

Principal methods used are hand lines, trolling lines, fine cotton gill nets, a form of encircling gill triangular net in cotton or heavy Indian twine, a rectangular bottom set net with leader, lift nets and various tangle and beach seine nets.

Organisation

226 The fishing industry is split into net and line fishermen. The latter
426 are mostly self-supporting and generally take their own fish to market. The net fishermen are almost all completely indebted to substantial salt fish exporters who advance money to the captain (*nakhooda*) of

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MMI Aden MMI

each boat for purchasing boats and gear, and maintenance of the crew. In repayment the exporters take as much fish as they can from the fishermen indebted to them. Despite the frequent disagreements over the value of fish caught, few *nākhoodas* ever get free of debt.

There are no fish factories but salting is carried out by seven Arab exporters, who sell most of the fish to Ceylon. A small fish-meal plant was installed by one merchant in 1951. Sardines, anchovies and shrimps are sun-dried and bagged by these exporters in the winter months. There is one ice factory in Indian hands; some of its production is utilised for fish boxes in the markets. A cold store in British hands has not been successfully used for fish storage owing to difficulty in obtaining regular supplies of fish.

Statistics of fishermen, boats and fishing gear and exports of dried and salted fish are given on page 26.

Marketing

Marketing of fish is done generally through a single auctioneer in each of the markets. Unofficial auctioneers exist who take about 12½ per cent of the selling price. In order to control as large a share as possible of the fish passing through their hands the auctioneer lends money to fishermen against the sole right to auction their fish. Fishermen who are not indebted are free to sell to any stall-holder or rent a stall for themselves but the fact that unofficial auctioneers offer ready cash results in most of the fish passing through an agent's hands.

Fluctuating supply and demand make it impossible to give reliable figures for the average price of fish but observation shows that about 70 per cent of the price paid by the consumer goes to the fishermen, 12 per cent to the auctioneer and 18 per cent to the stallholder.

The amount of fish taken to market is normally insufficient for the needs of the populaton except in the summer months when gluts are common.

Events affecting Production

The production of fish in 1951 was below normal particularly during the summer monsoon. This is attributed to the lack of strong winds and poor upswelling of cold water which normally drives fish to the warmer coastal water. Shoals of sardine were present early in December, 1951, off the Colony and moved slowly eastwards during January and February, 1952. Large yields were obtained and fresh and dried sardines were plentiful in the markets.

The summer monsoon of 1952 was a strong one and the majority of sambuk-owners did very well. The water temperature was 69°F on one occasion and fish normally living in rocks 15 miles out were caught in great numbers inshore. The shrimp and anchovy season was generally bad and few sardines had appeared by the end of 1952.

Fisheries Department

The Fisheries Department comprises one Fisheries Officer, one